

CLAIMS:

1. A method for operating a speech recognition system (1), in which method a speech signal (S_I) of a user is detected and analyzed so as to recognize speech information contained in the speech signal (S_I), characterized in that there is determined a reception quality value (S_Q) or a noise value which represents a current reception quality, and in that
5 the speech recognition system (1) switches over to a mode of operation which is less sensitive to noise and/or outputs an alert signal (S_w) to the user when the reception quality value (S_Q) drops below a given reception quality threshold or when the noise value exceeds a noise threshold.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the speech recognition system is automatically reset to the previous mode of operation when the reception quality value (S_Q) exceeds the reception quality threshold again or when the noise value drops below the noise threshold again.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that when the reception quality value drops below the reception quality threshold or the noise value exceeds the noise threshold, a barge-in mode of operation of the speech recognition system (1) is deactivated.
- 20 4. A method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the reception quality value (S_Q) or the noise value is determined by means of a voice activity detector (5).
- 25 5. A method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the reception quality value (S_Q) or the noise value is determined on the basis of a background signal which is received prior to the beginning of the utterance and/or in a speech pause of the user.
6. A method as claimed in claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the voice activity detector (5) applies the reception quality value (S_Q) or the noise value itself and/or, when the

reception quality value drops below the reception quality threshold or when the noise value exceeds the noise threshold, a reception corruption indication signal (S_{EB}) to a dialog control device (10).

5 7. A method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 6, characterized in that when the reception corruption indication signal (S_{EB}) is received and/or when the received reception quality value (S_Q) drops below the reception quality threshold or the noise value exceeds the noise threshold, the dialog control device (10) initiates the output of a prompt (S_w) to the user who is thus given the information that the reception conditions are poor.

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8. A method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that an incoming signal is analyzed as regards the type of disturbance causing the reception quality value (S_Q) to be below the reception quality threshold or the noise value to be above the noise threshold, and that a prompt (S_w) which contains this information is output to the user.

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9. A speech recognition system (1) which comprises means (5) for the detection of a speech signal (S_I) of a user and a speech recognition device (7) for analyzing the detected speech signal (S_I) so as to recognize speech information contained in the speech signal, characterized in that it comprises a quality control device (6) for determining a

20 reception quality value (S_Q) or a noise value, representing a current reception quality,

a comparator for comparing the reception quality value (S_Q) with a predetermined reception quality threshold or for comparing the noise value with a given noise threshold,

25 and control means (9, 10) which are constructed in such a manner that the speech recognition system (1) is switched over to a mode of operation which is less sensitive to noise and/or an alert signal (S_w) is output to the user when the reception quality value drops below the reception quality threshold or when the noise value exceeds the noise threshold.

30 10. A computer program which comprises program code means for carrying out all steps of a method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 8 when the program is run on a computer.